AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

An improved computer network security system ~~and method,~~ and a personal identifier device used for controlling network access with, ~~to provide~~ real time authentication of both a person's identity and presence at a computer workstation is provided. A new user is registered to a portable personal digital identifier device and, within the portable personal digital identifier device, an input biometric of the user is received and a master template is derived therefrom and securely maintained in storage. A private key and public key encryption system is utilized to authenticate a user registered to the portable personal digital identifier device. ~~A private key is also generated and securely maintained in the storage and a public key corresponding to the private key is generated and provided for external storage (in the network). A public key corresponding to a private key associated with a network security manager component is also stored in the device storage. When the personal digital identifier device is within an envelope area proximate the workstation a first signal is transmitted from a base unit associated with the workstation to the personal digital identifier device and the personal digital identifier device automatically transmits a response signal establishing communications between the base unit and the personal digital identifier device.~~ The personal digital identifier device verifies the origin of a digitally signed challenge message from the network security manager component. A digitally and biometrically signed challenge response message is produced and transmitted by the personal digital identifier device in response to the verified challenge message. ~~An image of the user may be displayed on the workstation screen when the user's personal identifier device is located within the envelope.~~